



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

agitation advocated by him in favor of such international legislation is likely to do good, whether the end desired be reached or not, and is to be favored.

The account of what has been already done, the sketch of the history of the movement, is complete and very interesting, and would seem to promise much for the future. But the author himself, in spite of the moderation of his plans and his apparent willingness to wait for results, — for he says that such treaties are not to be expected in the immediate future, — in spite, too, of the great advances that the idea seems to have made in all Europe within the last few years, still seems hopeless of the final result ; for he speaks, in conclusion, of the way for the accomplishment of the plan as one yet to be found, and contents himself with adding : “ Where is a will, there is a way.”

J. W. JENKS.

*Third Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labor, 1887. Strikes and Lockouts.* Washington : Government Printing Office, 1888. — 8vo, 1172 pp.

This report, which was ready for transmission almost a year ago, purports to give the statistics of all the strikes and lockouts occurring in the United States during the years 1881 to 1886 inclusive. The files of the leading papers were consulted and a list made of all strikes which had been reported during that period. Special agents were then sent to the localities, and they gathered the best information they could concerning each difficulty. These reports are here tabulated and show the number of establishments affected by strikes and lockouts, the number of strikers, the length of time each strike lasted, its cause, the success or partial success or failure, the industry involved, the new employees engaged, the loss in wages and the loss to employers, *etc.*

The only serious question to be considered by the critic of such a volume as this is, whether the method adopted is sufficiently accurate and certain to enable us to trust the results. In the present case the question is to be answered in the affirmative. Absolute accuracy, of course, is not to be attained in any such investigation. For instance, employers and employees will differ as to the length of an unsuccessful strike. The employer will say that the strike ceased as soon as he got enough new hands to start running again ; while the employees will wait until the strike has been declared off by some labor organization. The judgment of the special agent must decide the question ; and, as in almost all social statistics, we then have statistics of the opinions of experts rather than statistics of actual occurrences.

The commissioner has shown his acumen in tabulating the statistics according to the establishments affected rather than by strikes spreading

through many establishments. Thereby we get a perfectly certain unit of measurement. It is true that establishments differ in size from the "Gould system" down to the little town bakery; and thus the mere number of establishments affected gives us little information. But all we have to do is to add the number of men striking and the duration of the strike in order to reach a judgment as to the relative seriousness of the disturbance at any one time or place, or in any one industry.

The economist will find that this investigation confirms the conclusions hitherto generally accepted in regard to strikes: for instance, that over one-half of them are unsuccessful; that in the great mass of cases the reason for the strike is connected with wages; that the loss to employees is enormous (\$59,972,440 in six years); and that even when the strike is successful it requires three or four months of the increased wages to make up the loss. Here, however, we reach the most difficult, and at the same time most uncertain part of the investigation. The phenomena are so intricate that they escape the most refined instruments of statistical analysis and will not submit to tabulation.

RICHMOND MAYO SMITH.

*Die Englische Fabrikinspektion.* Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Fabrikgesetzgebung in England. Von OTTO W. WEYER. Tübingen, 1888, Verlag der Laupp'schen Buchhandlung. — xv. 325 pp.

This purports to be the doctor's thesis of a young German-American at the university of Tübingen. It deals exhaustively with a part of the history of factory legislation in England. As the title of the book indicates, it describes chiefly the efforts hitherto made by the English government to control the labor of women and children, in factories, workshops and private houses, by means of inspectors. The administrative machinery of control, its necessity, origin, development, present condition, and the results achieved through it, form the subject-matter of the work. Original material, *viz.*, the reports of parliamentary committees and of the inspectors themselves, has been used constantly in its preparation. It is written in a spirit of strong sympathy with the objects and results of the English factory acts and of opposition to "*ultra-Smithianismus*." The author divides the movement of which he treats into two periods, the one including the experiments at factory regulation previous to 1833, the other the act of that year and all the additions to and modifications of it which have been adopted since. The book closes with a full classified statement of the provisions of the codification act of 1878, and a discussion of some of the imperfections which still exist in the system.

The chief reason why the acts passed before 1833 accomplished so